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of the Fernando Vaz, the Bakalai tribes disappear; then follow a people calling themselves Ashira, and next to them come the Apindgi.

"Up the Ovenga, I left it and went into the interior amidst the Bakalai people and afterwards into the Ashira country. The Ashiras are quite a different people from any that I have yet seen in Western Africa. They cultivate tobacco extensively, and cotton to some extent also, but the principal cloth made by them is from a kind of grass which is very fine. Food with this people is abundant, and they are the only people I have yet seen in this country that had domesticated hogs.

"Immense forests, in which the ebony tree is very abundant, border the banks of the Fernando Vaz, but at the highest point that I reached, the country was more open, and grassy plains frequently presented themselves. I was assured by the natives that this was the character of the country still higher up the river and its branches, and they speak of a large prairie and of a large lake also further in the interior. The latter, as far as I can judge from the accounts of the natives, is about 600 miles from the coast. At present my intention is to make another journey about in the latitude of the Fernando Vaz in search of this lake, which I have some hopes may prove to be the source of the Congo. In this journey I may perhaps also ascertain the course of the mountains that I reached in ascending the Muni river.

I have made maps of all the rivers that I have ascended, and have, with much difficulty, kept my journal without intermission, and hope to lay it before the Academy on my return to the United States. I send by this vessel four boxes and three barrels containing collections of quadrupeds and birds, in which are many interesting specimens, and some that I have never collected before. All are from the Fernando Vaz or Camma, the Ogobai, Rembo and Ovenga rivers."

Dr. Leidy exhibited a drawing of the worm described by him at a former meeting as *Manayunkia speciosa*.

Dr. Leidy remarked, that perhaps some of the members present would recollect he had some time since, (Proc. 1858, p. 90,) described a curious fresh water worm, *Manayunkia speciosa*, from the river Schuylkill. It was observed that it appeared to be most nearly allied to the marine genus *Fabricia*. During the last summer, Dr. L. in company with Mr. Powel sought for the latter at Newport, R. I. They found it in very great abundance at the foot of the cliffs bathed by the ocean. In its curved tubes of tenacious mud, adhering to stones, and with its projecting tentacles, it very much resembles a ciliated polype, especially *Plumatella*.

The worm is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lines long, demi-cylindroid, with 12 annuli, of which all except the first are setigerous. The cephalic annulus has a short proboscis; is provided with one or two pairs of eyes, and supports six arms with about 80 ciliated tentacles. The succeeding 7 or 8 annuli are provided on each side with fascicles of from 5 to 7 setæ and as many podal spines. The posterior three annuli are provided on each side with fascicles of 2 setæ and from 12 to 15 short podal spines. Anterior setæ terminating in a linear lanceolate blade; posterior setæ aristate. Anterior spines terminating in a hook which is dentate on its convex border; posterior spines expanded at the extremity, which is dentate on the convex border. Caudal annulus with a pair of eyes.

Eyes exist in the cephalic and caudal annuli, also in the young worm. From the want of a good description and figures of the European species of *Fabricia*, it was not to be determined whether the American species was different from it.

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January 18th.

President LEA in the Chair.

Forty-one members present.

The following papers were presented for publication in the Proceedings.

[Jan.

Catalogue of Birds collected on the rivers Camma and Ogobai, Western Africa, by Mr. P. B. DuChaillu, in 1858, with notes and descriptions of new species, by John Cassin.

Descriptions of two new species of tortoises, by John Le Conte.

Geological Explorations in Kansas Territory, by F. B. Meek and F. V. Hayden, M. D.,

And were referred to Committees.

Dr. Morris described a new species of *Pomotis* very common in the vicinity of Philadelphia, and characterised by a short auricular appendage and rounded caudal fin. The numbers of the rays are as follows:

D. 9-10. A. 3-9. P. 9. C. 16. V. 1-5.

The dorsal, anal and caudal fins are covered with spots of a lighter color than the fins themselves. The body of the fish is traversed by seven or eight blackish bands, the first passing through the eye, the second near the margin of the opercle, the third behind the pectoral, the fourth and fifth opposite the dorsal, the sixth, seventh and eighth from opposite the end of the dorsal to the root of the caudal. An opaline bluish spot is found on the opercular appendage, the general color of which is black. This species approaches the *P. catesbei* of Cuv. and Val. but is believed to be distinct. Dr. M. proposed for it the name of *Pomotis guttatus*.

Dr. Leidy called the attention of the members to some remains of cartilaginous fishes, discovered by Dr. F. V. Hayden and F. B. Meek, during the last summer, in the carboniferous formations of Kansas. One of these is a mutilated dorsal spine included in a fragment of rock, from the upper carboniferous formation of Leavenworth City. The spine may perhaps belong to one of the same fishes, to which the other specimens appertain, but there was no means at present to determine this fact. It was characterised as follows:

*XYSTRACANTHUS ARCUATUS* Leidy. Spine much curved; its posterior border forming the segment of a circle whose diameter would be about 2 inches. Length along the convex border, when perfect, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Lower extremity  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lines wide. Section ovoid with the broader part posterior. Sides of the spine finely ridged longitudinally, and furnished anteriorly with small, oblique, hemi-elliptical tubercles; posteriorly provided, on the two sides together, with six rows of odontoid tubercles, of which those of the first row on each side are minute, and of the last row are the largest. Osseous structure of the specimen brown; odontoid tubercles invested with smooth, shining gray, enameloid substance, demi-conoidal, those of the posterior pair of rows sometimes coalescing across the back border of the spine and assuming a crescentoid form.

The second specimen was the fragment of a tooth, of a species of *Cladodus*, obtained from the Manhattan upper coal measures. It was characterised as follows:

*CLADODUS OCCIDENTALIS* Leidy. Enamelled crown, when perfect, about an inch in length, demi-conical; the outer convex side provided with narrow oblique folds. Lateral denticles two, the outer one the larger. Base of the tooth reniform, with a breadth of about an inch, and the short diameter about 5 lines; lateral extremities provided with a pair of large ovoid tubercles, one above the inner margin, the other below the outer margin.

The third specimen is a tooth, apparently of *Petalodus alleghaniensis*,\* from the upper carboniferous rocks, near Fort Riley. It differs from the tooth, upon which the species was originally founded, in no important point, except that it is larger. The breadth of the crown is about twenty lines; its height on the convex side 10 lines, on the concave side 1 inch.

\* Journ. Acad. Nat. Sci. iii, 161.